



San Diego City Attorney **MICHAEL J. AGUIRRE**

NEWS RELEASE

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CITY ATTORNEY'S CAREFUL REVIEW OF OUTSIDE COUNSEL BILLS IS ALREADY PAYING OFF

City Attorney's Office will also be issuing report to Council

San Diego, CA: In January, City Attorney Michael Aguirre assigned a full-time deputy city attorney to carefully examine all outside counsel bills that have been submitted to the City; especially, as they relate to the on-going Federal investigations into the City of San Diego's financial disclosure practices. The closer scrutiny of charges has resulted in the City being reimbursed for an inappropriate billing for public relations work and an inappropriate charge for a lunch meal.

Deputy City Attorney Maria Severson is drafting strict guidelines and procedures for the submission and approval of outside legal bills. In addition, the City Attorney's Office is also working with law firms to reduce their legal bills because of the City's financial crisis. To date, the City has saved \$25,000 with the cooperation of one major law firm that reduced its total bill by 15%.

The City Attorney's Office will be issuing a report to Mayor and City Council regarding an update on the law firms that have been retained to represent City Officials and potential consolidation of attorney fees and legal services.

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